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14. (Currently Amended) A system for multi-media transmission of data in a cable television network, the system for multi-media transmission comprising:

a multimedia device; and

a set-top box capable of establishing an interactive session with an assigned processor selected from a plurality of processors at a headend of the cable television network by negotiating a connection;

wherein the multimedia device has an input port for receiving a multimedia signal, an encoder for compressing a representation of the multimedia signal, a packetizer for packetizing the compressed representation of the multimedia signal with header information as to origination and packet order and an output port for sending to the set-top box ~~a~~ the packetized compressed digital representation of the multimedia signal;

wherein the set-top box includes an input port for ~~receives~~ receiving the packetized compressed digital representation of the multimedia signal and the set-top box forwards the ~~signal~~ packetized compressed digital representation of the multimedia signal to ~~a~~ the

assigned processor at the headend of the cable television network over the negotiated connection.

15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein the multimedia device ~~packetizes the multimedia signal wherein the header information of each packet only includes a source identifier and an order identifier~~ generates and sends an interrupt signal to the set-top box prior to the set-top box receiving the packetized compressed digital representation of the multimedia signal.

16. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~15~~ 14 wherein the multimedia device further includes an action identifier for indicating an interactive session type.

17. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~15~~ 14 wherein the set-top box receives an interrupt from the multimedia device prior to receiving the multimedia signal.

18. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein the ~~set-top box does not add header information prior to sending the multimedia signal~~ interactive session type is a video conferencing session.

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29. (New) A system for video conferencing, the system comprising:

a cable headend having a plurality of addressable processors;

a multimedia device having an input port for receiving audio and video input from a camera and a microphone, the multimedia device includes an encoder for compressing the audio and video input, a packetizer for packetizing the encoded audio and video input with header information as to origination and packet order and an output;

a set-top box coupled to the output of the multimedia device and connected to a user's television, the set-top box receiving the packetized compressed audio and video input from the multimedia device and capable of establishing an interactive session over a communications link with an assigned one of the plurality of processors at the cable headend;

wherein after an interactive session is established between the processor at the associated address, the processor runs a video conferencing program, receives the packetized and compressed audio and video input and directs the packetized and compressed audio and video input to a designated destination address and sends received audio and video to the set-top box for display on the user's television.

30. (New) A method for video conferencing, the method comprising:

receiving at a cable headend a request for a video conference from a set-top box within a cable television network;

negotiating a connection between the set-top box and an assigned processor at the cable headend;

starting video conferencing software at the assigned processor;

receiving at the assigned processor a destination address for the video conference;

outputting video from a media device to the set-top box;

sending via the negotiated connection the video to the assigned processor;

coordinating video transmissions using the video conferencing software on the assigned processor; and

forwarding by the assigned processor the video to the destination address.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, further comprising:

packetizing the video including header information as to source and packet order prior to outputting the video from the media device.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, further comprising:

sending from the assigned processor a request for a video stream to the set-top box using the header information as to source.

33. (New) The method according to claim 30 further comprising:

sending a request to the multimedia device in communication with the set-top box to begin capturing video.

34. (New) The method according to claim 31 further comprising:

encoding the video in the media device prior to packetizing the video.

35. (New) A method according to claim 30, further comprising:

assigning a processor from a plurality of processors at the head end.